

November 23 – Dec. 1, 2013
Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

Overall, wetland conditions are much improved from last year at this time. Many of the public waterfowl areas report moist soil units as being either at seasonal norms. While agricultural crops were impacted by the spring and summer rains, natural vegetation was very robust and produce an excellent source of natural foods that should persist well into winter meeting the seasonal demands of migrating and wintering waterfowl. An early cold front should provide a strong early push of mallards that have been held up in the central Illinois and Missouri River bottoms over the last week to 10 days. The influx of migrating birds coupled with good to excellent wetland conditions should provide outstanding conditions for the season opener.

The following list below, represent the results of ground counts made by local KDFWR wildlife biologists. The locations and counts presented below probably represent a minimal number of what can be expected listed on the surveyed areas. Good hunting!

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard WMA	20,290 ducks 90 CG geese 990 W-F geese 450 Snow geese	85% mallard, 10% gadwall, remainder a mix of wigeon, pintail, green-winged teal and wood duck.	MSUs partially filled. Main Ohio River pump on and hunt units are filling.
Barren River Lake	300 ducks	80% divers, diverse species composition. Ring-necked ducks, redhead and ruddy most common	Lake 4.9' above winter pool. Water level dropping
Birdsville Island	No count		
Kentucky/Barkley Lakes	No Count		
Duck Island	2,000-3,000 ducks	85% mallard, 10% green- winged teal, and 5% a mix of gadwall, pintail and shoveler	No row crops, excellent moist soil. Water and habitat good/excellent
Boatwright WMA	1,576 ducks	96% mallards remainder wood ducks, gadwall and others Canada geese	MSU's have good water on hunt units. Several ducks observed moving around.
Clear Creek WMA	No Count		
Peabody WMA	385 ducks 50 coots 236 Can. Geese	80% mallard, 15% other dabblers	Plenty of water, MSU's near capacity. Good stand of natural veg.
Sloughs WMA	3,500 ducks 2,500 WFG 2,500 SG 250 CG 17 Swan	85% mallards remainder wigeon, gadwall, black duck.	Most birds were on the refuge, feeding on winter wheat. Wells running, 85% of MSU's at capacity. Natural areas look good.

Yellowbank WMA	570	Mostly mallards and wood ducks Some green-winged teal and gadwall	Water level at maximum capacity on most MSU's.
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	110 ducks	50% mallard, 20% gadwall, 15% black duck, remainder divers	All water at seasonal levels. Lake Gen about 2/3 full
Herrington Lake	0	No ducks observed on lake or ash pond. Some mallards observed on local farm ponds	
Taylorsville Lake	50 CG	Canada geese observed on adjacent farm pond.	Lake above winter pool and falling. Pumping underway on MSUs.
Cedar Cr./Dix R. WMA	10 ducks 500 coots	Mallard	Wetland units on Dix River WMA are partially flooded.
Green River WMA	200 ducks	90% mallards with some GWT and wigeon.	All MSU's and beaver ponds full. Lake above winter pool
Cave Run Lake	400 100 125 800	Mostly gadwall, some mallard, wigeon and pintail. Unknown duck Canada geese Coots	Zilpo Flats and Dam area.